

ROCHESTER AREA

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

March 23, 2005

The Honorable Gil Gutmacht
U.S. House of Representatives
425 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

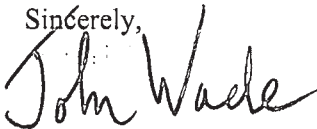
Dear Congressman Gutmacht:

The Rochester Area Chamber of Commerce is pleased to announce our support of H.R. 328, the Pharmaceutical Market Access Act of 2005. We appreciate your leadership in sponsoring legislation that would lower prescription drug costs for American consumers by allowing the importation of drugs with appropriate safeguards. This bill opens the market for prescription drugs by allowing pharmacists, wholesalers, and individuals to import FDA-approved prescription drugs manufactured in FDA-approved facilities.

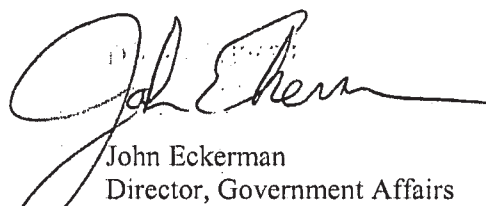
Rochester Area Chamber of Commerce surveys indicate the rising cost of health care is a major concern of our membership. Nationwide studies show health care premiums for families in employer sponsored plans soared 13.9 percent in 2003. Businesses in Minnesota and across the country are frustrated by the rising cost of health care. This bill will not solve all the problems associated with the cost of healthcare but it is a giant step in the right direction.

On behalf of our 1100 members who represent over 90 percent of the employees in the Rochester area, our organization fully supports and endorses passage of H.R. 328.

Sincerely,



John Wade
President



John Eckerman
Director, Government Affairs